

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03245 060903Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 ACDA-12 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 /099 W  
-----029175 061826Z /41

R 060811Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6099  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
USMISSION USNATO  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON, ENG  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, GE  
USNMR SHAPE  
DIA WASHDC  
SECDEF WASHDC  
JCS WASHDC  
CNO WASHDC  
CINCLANT NORFOLK, VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3245

SHAPE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, PINT, UR, NO  
SUBJECT: UNAUTHORIZED LANDING BY SOVIET SHIPS

1. FOUR SOVIET SHIPS (ONE FREIGHTER AND THREE BULK CARRIERS  
AVERAGING THREE TO FOUR THOUSAND TONS) ENTERED THE SANDEFJORD  
NEAR NORDKYN PENINSULA (71-03N, 28-05 E) ON TUESDAY EVENING,  
JUNE 27, WITHOUT PERMISSION. THE SHIPS HAD EARLIER ASKED  
FOR PERMISSION TO ENTER NORWEGIAN WATERS AND ANCHOR CLAIMING  
BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS. THIS REQUEST WAS DENIED, BUT THE  
SHIPS ARRIVED ANYWAY. NOT ONLY DID THEY DROP ANCHOR, BUT  
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PAGE 02 OSLO 03245 060903Z

SEVERAL BOATS LANDED MEMBERS OF THE CREW BRIEFLY ON  
THE SHORE. THE VERACITY OF THE WEATHER EXCUSE WAS  
CHALLENGED BY LOCAL OFFICIALS WHO POINTED OUT THAT IT  
HAD SELDOM BEEN BETTER. THE SHIPS DEPARTED WEDNESDAY,  
JUNE 28, AFTER BEING ORDERED TO DO SO BY THE LOCAL POLICE  
AUTHORITIES.  
THEY WERE ESCORTED OUT OF THE FJORD BY A NORWEGIAN

MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT. THE NORWEGIAN PRESS AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES TREATED THE MATTER PUBLICLY IN A VERY LOW KEY FASHION PREFERRING NOT TO TAKE DIRECT ISSUE WITH THE MOTIVATION FOR THE SHIPS' BEHAVIOR. SEVERAL OF THE MAJOR OSLO NEWSPAPERS, HOWEVER, ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER THE SOVIET INCURSION WAS A PROVOCATION OR A TEST OF NORWEGIAN PREPAREDNESS.

3. THE UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE, JOHAN JORGEN HOLST, COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT IN HIS VIEW THE UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY WAS A CALCULATED AND COORDINATED SOVIET MOVE. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHAT THE PURPOSE COULD HAVE POSSIBLY BEEN. INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE NAVY (ADMIRAL HERLOFSON) UNDERScoreD THE MALINTENT OF THE RUSSIAN SHIPS BY POINTING OUT THAT THEY HAD HAD CONSTANT RADIO CONTACT WITH BOTH THE NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES AND WITH THEIR OWN AUTHORITIES IN MURMANSK, AND THAT THE OBVIOUS THINNESS OF THE WEATHER EXCUSE WAS CLEAR TO ALL. SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE SAID THAT IT HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED WHETHER A FORMAL PROTEST WOULD BE LODGED WITH THE SOVIETS, BUT THAT SUCH A MOVE WAS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED.

4. COMMENT: FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, WE ARE EQUALLY  
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PAGE 03 OSLO 03245 060903Z

PUZZLED BY THE POSSIBLE MOTIVATION FOR THE SOVIET ACT AND WOULD WELCOME THE DEPARTMENT'S AND EMBASSY MOSCOW'S INTERPRETATIONS.  
LERNER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978OSLO03245  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780277-0966  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** MILI, PEPR, PINT, UR, NO  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
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